



2014 Utah Original Writing Competition Guidelines

Since 1958, the annual Utah Original Writing Competition has honored Utah writers with public recognition and cash prizes. Numerous awardees selected by our nationally recognized literary jurors have continued on to significant statewide and national acclaim, bringing recognition and prestige to our state. The awards are funded in part by the Utah State Legislature and the National Endowment for the Arts. Please read through all of these guidelines, which include the contest rules, submission timeline, and categories, before submitting at <https://utahartsmuseums.submittable.com/submit>.

RULES

- **DEADLINE:** Friday, June 27, 2014 at 5 pm. This is a firm deadline and late manuscripts will not be considered. Please enter early to avoid technical issues. Submissions will be accepted *online only* beginning April 1, 2014 at <https://utahartsmuseums.submittable.com/submit>.
- *****First-Book Categories***:** Submissions included in categories A-D constitute a first book. Writers interested in entering one of these categories cannot have a book published or accepted for publication in that category. However, authors can have a book published or accepted for publication in a category other than the one they wish to enter.
- **Previous Publication:** Acknowledgement of previously published work or previous performance in competitions should not be included on your manuscript. However, in categories A-D, if portions of the work have been published, as permitted, indicate so when asked during the application process. Self-published manuscripts which have not gone through a formal or peer-review process are still eligible for submission.
- **Submission Specifications:**
 1. The judging is done blind. Do not include your name on your manuscripts or title page.
 2. Include the title or an abbreviation of the title on the bottom, right-hand corner of each page.
 3. Do not include acknowledgments or dedications in the manuscripts.
 4. Manuscripts must be uploaded in MS Word or PDF format. We do not accept entries in other any word processing programs.
 5. Use 12 pt. font and double space all manuscripts.
Formatting guidelines must be followed as closely as possible. The only exceptions are in poetry categories, where formatting choices may be dictated by the form.

6. Number pages, preferably at the top right-hand corner.
 7. Use the exact same title for your manuscript throughout the application process, including on the manuscript title page, file name, and in the application itself.
 8. Pseudonyms may not be used. Legal names, spelled consistently throughout, must be used to submit to the competition.
- **Residency Requirement:** The competition is open to all legal residents of the state of Utah. There is no age restriction.
 - **Entry Fees:** NONE
 - **Limits on Entries:** Writers are allowed to enter more than one category, however, only one entry per category per contestant is allowed. A manuscript can only be entered in one category. Portions of a larger manuscript submitted in one category cannot be submitted in a second category. First and second prize winners are not eligible to enter that category the next year. In the case of alternating categories, first and second prize winners cannot enter the exact category they placed in until at least one round of competition in that category has taken place. Winners are allowed to enter alternating categories in addition to any of the other categories.
 - **Judges' Decisions Are Final:** Judges have sole and final authority in evaluation of manuscripts. If, in the opinion of the judge, no manuscript entered in a category is of sufficient quality to merit an award, none will be given. The judges are not identified until after the winners have been announced. *Judges' comments will be provided for first prize and second prize only. Under no circumstances should a contestant contact a judge directly.* A contestant who does contact a judge may be disqualified. Honorable mentions may be announced at the judge's discretion, however, they offer no cash award.
 - **Winning Manuscripts to Remain on File:** The manuscripts of the first and second prize winners in each category must remain on file with Utah Arts & Museums as part of its permanent collection. In the event a winning entry is later published, Arts & Museums asks that you provide a signed copy of the work.
 - **Rights:** Authors of winning entries retain all rights of publication.
 - **Disqualification:** Failure to follow these guidelines may result in disqualification.

CATEGORIES

Category A: Novel

First prize: \$1,000

Second prize: \$500

Specifications: Fiction; minimum length: 60,000 words

No part of the manuscript can be published in book form or have been accepted for publication as a book at the time of entry. Work from the submission that has been excerpted on the Web, in journals or in an anthology is acceptable. *****This is a first-book category*****

Category B: Creative Nonfiction

In Partnership with the [University of Utah Press](#)

This category alternates each year. Next year it will be Biography & Autobiography

First prize: \$1,000, and first option for publication by the UofU Press

Second prize: \$500

Specifications: Nonfiction, including memoir and essay collections; minimum length 50,000 words

No part of the manuscript can be published in book form or have been accepted for publication as a book at the time of entry. Work from the submission that has been excerpted on the Web, in journals or in anthologies is acceptable. *****This is a first-book category*****

Category C: Book-length Collection of Poetry

This category alternates each year with Book-length Collection of Stories

First prize: \$1,000

Second prize: \$500

Specifications: Minimum length 50 pages

No part of the manuscript can be published in book form or have been accepted for publication as a book at the time of entry. Poems that may have been included in an anthology or that have appeared singly in a journal/magazine are eligible. *****This is a first-book category*****

Category D: Juvenile Book

This category alternates each year with Young Adult Book

First prize: \$1,000

Second prize: \$500

Specifications: Fiction or nonfiction (general or biography), appealing to readers ages 6 through 13. Compilations of stories for young readers will be accepted.

Maximum/Minimum length: none

No part of the manuscript can be published in book form or have been accepted for publication as a book at the time of entry. Individual stories from the collection included in an anthology are acceptable. *****This is a first-book category*****

Category E: Poetry

First prize: \$300

Second prize: \$150

Specifications: A short collection of up to 10 poems for adults; maximum length: 1,000 lines (total)

The collection must have a title. No part of the collection can be published in any form except on the Web or have been accepted for publication at the time of entry.

Category F: Short Story

First prize: \$300

Second prize: \$150

Specifications: Fiction for adults; maximum length: 7,500 words

Story cannot be published, except on the Web, or have been accepted for publication at the time of entry.

Category G: Narrative Nonfiction/Personal Essay

First prize: \$300

Second prize: \$150

Specifications: Nonfiction for adults; maximum length: 7,500 words

Narrative Nonfiction/Personal Essay cannot be published, except on the Web, or have been accepted for publication at the time of entry.

TIMELINE

April 1: Submission period open: <https://utahartsmuseums.submittable.com/submit>

June 27: Submissions due by 5 pm MDT (all submissions must be made online)

September: Winners notified by telephone and letter. Press notified.

October: Awards presentation. As funding permits, celebratory reading(s) may be scheduled.

Governor of the State of Utah

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Questions?

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